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Blackburn, Thomas

From: Kocher Terrie  
 Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 2:34 PM  
 To: Blackburn, Thomas  
 Subject: FW: Questions on Continuing Education

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Ehler [mailto:jehler@is-ecg.com]  
 Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 11:03 AM  
 To: ST, ENGINEER  
 Subject: Questions on Continuing Education

Hello

I am a licensed engineer in your state (I reside in Nebraska) and recently read the Summer 2009 newsletter for Professional Engineers.

I have a few questions about the proposed continuing education requirements that were mentioned in the lead article. You may or may not have answers to these questions but any clarification would be appreciated.

- 1 I am licensed in about 20 other states and in many of those the state allows renewals to be accepted if I validate that I meet the CE requirements of my home state. The article in the newsletter doesn't mention this as a possible aspect of the Pennsylvania law. Will that be an option for out-of-state licensees?
- 2 It appears that the requirement will be for 24 hours in a two-year period. Most states require 30. Is the 24 correct or is that still being discussed?
- 3 The article states that out-of-state licensees will be subject to the same CE requirements as in-state – which makes sense. However, it also suggests that each and every CE activity must have board approval. How would the board handle the potentially thousands of requests for "board approval" of various seminars, conferences, etc.? That seems to me to be an enormous task that would be very ineffective and cumbersome on the engineers living outside of Pennsylvania, not to mention in-state engineers as well.
- 4 Would I have to submit some type of request or form for every CE activity prior to attending or after attending?
- 5 Would the requests for board approval of CE activity be an online request?
- 6 The article states that "participation in any professional organization or society" will not count as CE. My question is: will attendance at technical meetings (monthly ASCE meeting for example) where a technical presentation is given on an engineering topic count as CE credit?

Thanks for any clarification you can offer.

My suggestions (from the perspective of an out-of-state licensee with multiple state licenses) would be:

- 1 Require the same (30 hours) of CE activity as most other states use.
- 2 Allow for out-of-state licensees to validate that they meet their home state CE requirements.
- 3 If out-of-state validation is not possible, provide some easy means of submitting requests for board approval of out-of-state CE events such as seminars, conferences, etc. For example, here in Nebraska we have an annual structural engineering conference (about 200 engineers attend) that lasts for a day and the conference submits CE certificates for perhaps 7 to 7.5 hours. Allow an engineer to submit the outline of speakers/topics to the board prior to attending to get approval.

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Jeffrey A. Ehler, P.E., S.E.

Business Development Manager  
Ampac



**InfraStructure, LLC**

Engineering & Construction

InfraStructure, LLC  
2410 Pacific Street Suite 345  
Omaha Nebraska 68106-1046  
phone 402-850-7274 x 10  
fax 402-850-6211  
mobile 402-917-1377

jeff@infrastructure.com  
402-850-6000